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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

25X1A

DATE DISTR. 16 March 1951

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Report on Sassnitz Harbor and Vicinity

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1. 28 December 1950: At 1500 hours four minesweepers of German Type M 40 or M 43 were sighted in cruising formation near Stubbenkammer. The boats were painted dark grey and had unusual silver-grey stacks. They were armed with AA-guns only.

On the same day a Soviet minesweeper with a large deckhouse on its quarterdeck was seen in Sassnitz Harbor. It resembled the former German Navy tender HMLA*. The ship's designation appeared to be FREEMF. The vessel had one funnel and one mast forward with four loading beams.** On 1 January 1951 it loaded hawsers, other gear, and three launches at different piers in the harbor and took off on 2 January at 1300 hours.

7 January 1951: The Welfrieden with a white dove painted on its prow entered Sassnitz Harbor.

10 January: Four large fishing luggers similar to the Welfrieden were in the harbor. One of these was named the Drifter Bundeskongress. These vessels were of about 300 tons and are said to have been built in Rostock and Stralsund and were originally intended for the USSR. They were not accepted, however, because they were not equipped with thermostatic cooling units.

The cargo lugger Kriemhild was in the harbor during a three-day stay. [redacted] the vessel neither loaded nor unloaded.

[redacted] two Sea Police launches enter Sassnitz Harbor [redacted] The launches were former German Navy boats similar to "officers' boats". [redacted] The crew lived on board and the vessels seemed to be completely dilapidated.

2. Sassnitz Harbor, west of the ferry basin, is still under Soviet administration, but is supposed to be turned over to the Sea Police

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.

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Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S C

Auth.: HR 11-2

Date: 21/07/78 By:

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in the foreseeable future. [redacted] the Soviets will give up the harbor now that the salvage work which had been going on in the roadstead is completed. The Soviet supervisors of this work are still living in three requisitioned houses near the harbor. The salvage pontoons are still lying on the sea side of the outer mole. The new barracks which have been built recently near the harbor railway station are to be evacuated by the present tenants and turned over to the Sea Police.

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3. The main Sea Police base is Pavov near Stralsund. The Sea Police have 11 former German minesweepers (R-Boote) at their disposal at present. Most of these are older types. They are disposed as follows:

- 7 - Pavov
- 1 - Larnemunde
- 1 - Greifswald
- 3 - In different places on Rugen
- 2 - aground

Recruiting posters for the Sea Police are seen everywhere. There is a great need for licensed seamen and the pay is good. A Polizeirat receives 800.00 Ost-Marks a month. Many fishermen would join up if they did not fear difficulties later on when it was discovered that they have relatives in the West Zones.

4. There has been a sharp increase in the supervision of the port area in Sassnitz by the criminal police. [redacted]

People

functionaries and agents of the criminal police circulate in local cafes in order to check on the customers. The natives estimate that there are about 25 female agents. In addition, civilians wearing armbands with the label, "Factory Guard" (Werkschutz), operate in the harbor area, helping the regular police make controls in that area.

5. The so-called "Social Building" is being erected on the spot formerly occupied by the harbor railway station. It has a foundation plate of reinforced concrete 40 cm. thick. Rumor states that some of the natives believe an air raid shelter will be built on or in it. The new fish hall is being built next to the Social Building. It will have four stationary hand-operated cranes, four conveyor belts, and four hoists will be installed to reload the fishing boats. Three overhead travelling cranes each with a capacity of six tons are lying at the construction site waiting to be installed in the fish hall. [redacted] the equipment is too large for its ostensible use and that, therefore, the rumor has gone about that the fish hall has been designed for military purposes. The completion of the ice factory at the corner of the harbor at the base of the mole has been expedited. Parts for the ice-making machine, itself, are not available and efforts are being made to procure these from the West Zones.

6. 125 of the regular-type fish cutter (about 18 meters long and with 30 h.p. engines, and with construction numbers 75 to 200) are based in Sassnitz and are administered by the People's Owned Fish Industry. The cutters [redacted] have metal hulls and come from the West Zones. They are said to have been exchanged for East Zone sugar. The People's Owned Fish Industry has not proved to be

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profitable. The cutters are therefore being offered for charter on the basis that 52 per cent of the catch shall go to the People's Canned Fish Industry and 48 per cent to the charterer who is also to furnish his own nets and other gear, pay for the crew and small repairs. The fishermen are not taking up the offer.

7. There is a lively export of Czechoslovak automobiles to Sweden via Sassnitz over the Sassnitz-Kroloberg ferry. Two trainloads of these automobiles are reported to arrive in Sassnitz every week.

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* [] Comment: OMI 222-R, "Naval Vessels of the USSR", dated July 1947, lists the Hela as a submarine-tender which has been re-named Argara.

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** [] Comment: Although by no means certain from the scanty description, it is possible that the vessel may have been the Feodor Litke, a Soviet ice-breaker described on page 353 of Jane's 1950-51 edition of "Fighting Ships of the World" and page 145 of OMI, 222-R, "Naval Vessels of the USSR", July 1947. OMI, 222-R also lists a fleet oiler called the Feolant (page 140).

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